

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, or claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1: (original) A positive electrode for an alkaline storage battery comprising:  
a conductive support; and  
an active material that is supported by the support, the active material containing nickel hydroxide;  
wherein an intermediate part of the positive electrode plate has a larger porosity than surface parts thereof.

Claim 2: (original) The positive electrode plate for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the positive electrode plate is produced by filling the active material in the support, followed by two-step roller pressing.

Claim 3: (canceled)

Claim 4: (original) An alkaline storage battery comprising:  
the positive electrode plate of claim 1; and  
a negative electrode plate.

Claim 5: (original) An alkaline storage battery according to claim 4, wherein the positive electrode plate is produced by filling the active material in the support, followed by two-step roller pressing.